Amendments to the Claims

1.-19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended) A method of treating a patient having chronic hepatitis C infection that comprises administering to the patient a therapeutically weight-effective amount of ribavirin of about 800 mg/day for a patient having a weight of about 60 kg to 65 kg, about 1000 mg/day for a patient having a weight in the range of greater than 65 kg to 85 kg, and about 1200 mg/day for a patient having a weight greater than 85 kg, in association with ~~about~~ 1.5 micrograms per kilogram of pegylated interferon alfa-2b protein once a week for a treatment time period sufficient to eradicate detectable HCV-RNA and to maintain no detectable HCV-RNA for at least twelve weeks after the end of the treatment time period.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with multiple HCV genotypes.

22. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 1.

23. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 2 and/or 3.

24. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the treatment time period is about forty weeks to fifty weeks.

25. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 1, and wherein the patient has less than two million copies of hepatitis C virus per milliliter of the patient's serum.

26. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 1, and wherein the patient has greater than two million copies of hepatitis C virus per milliliter of the patient's serum.

27. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 2 and/or 3, and wherein the patient has less than two million copies of hepatitis C virus per milliliter of the patient's serum.

28. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 2 and/or 3, and wherein the patient has greater than two million copies of hepatitis C virus per milliliter of the patient's serum.

29. (currently amended) A method of treating a patient having chronic hepatitis C infection that comprises administering to the patient greater than 10.6 mg/kg of the patient's body weight of ribavirin per day in association with ~~about~~ 1.5 micrograms/kg of the patient's body weight of pegylated interferon alfa-2b protein once a week for a treatment time period sufficient to eradicate detectable HCV-RNA and to maintain no detectable HCV-RNA for at least twelve weeks after the end of the treatment time period.

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30. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with multiple HCV genotypes.

31. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 1.

32. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 2 and/or 3.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the treatment time period is about twenty-four weeks long.

34. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the treatment time period is about forty-eight weeks long.

35. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 1, and wherein the patient has less than two million copies of hepatitis C virus per milliliter of the patient's serum.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the treatment time period is about forty-eight weeks.

37. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 1, and wherein the patient has greater than two million copies of hepatitis C virus per milliliter of the patient's serum.

38. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein the treatment time period is about forty-eight weeks.

39. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 2 and/or 3, and wherein the patient has less than two million copies of hepatitis C virus per milliliter of the patient's serum.

40. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein the treatment time period is about forty-eight weeks.

41. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the patient that has chronic hepatitis C is infected with HCV genotype 2 and/or 3, and wherein the patient has greater than two million copies of hepatitis C virus per milliliter of the patient's serum.

42. (original) The method of claim 41, wherein the treatment time period is about forty-eight weeks.

43. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the amount of ribavirin administered is between 13 mg/kg and 14.5 mg/kg of the patient's body weight.

44. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the amount of ribavirin administered is greater than 13.2 mg/kg of the patient's body weight.

45. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the patient is a treatment naïve patient.

46. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the patient is a treatment naïve patient.